National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA

The Ames Astrogram

Communication for the Information Technology Age

October 15 , 2001

Ames' DART team returns from NYC recovery mission

Members of Ames' Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (DART) who were deployed to New York City in the aftermath of last month's terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center (WTC) have completed their deployments and returned to California.

The seven team members were Kelly Kasser, hazardous materials (HazMat) specialist; John Preston, search team manager; Roger Miller, technical search specialist; Phillip T. Snyder, rescue squad leader; Mark Tangney, rescue specialist; Paul Brown, logistics specialist; and Lynne Engelbert, canine search specialist. Engelbert is part of California Task Force 4 out of Oakland, while the other members were part of California Task Force 3 (CA TF3) out of Menlo Park.

Engelbert, Ames' emergency response and recovery program coordinator, reports that the Fire Department of New York's (FDNY) collapsed structure rescue specialists were virtually wiped out when the twin towers collapsed. That one event killed approximately 172 of the 200 members of the special operations response team. New York experiences 200 to 300 structural collapses every year, according to Engelbert. For the first four days of deployment, DART/CA TF3 members assisted in the creation and implementation of the rapid response task force. CA TF3 provided the ability to again respond to a building collapse within the five burroughs of New York City.

photo by Wendy Dolci

Six members of the NASA Ames Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (DART) returned from New York City on Sept. 30 and were welcomed back by DART Chief Robert Dolci. Pictured above, from left to right: John Preston, Roger Miller, Dolci, Paul Brown and Phil Snyder. Returning DART members not shown include Mark Tangney, Kelly Kasser and Lynne Engelbert.

HazMat specialist Kelly Kasser worked to ensure that the areas accessed by the DART members at the recovery site were safe from any hazardous materials.

Search team manager John Preston was responsible for the search and reconnaissance team, which included a structural engineer, technical search specialist, rescue specialist, two canine search specialists and a hazmat specialist. Preston took requests for searches from the FDNY liaison and coordinated and implemented the searches.

Technical search specialist Roger Miller used the highly evolved SearchCam to access void spaces in an attempt to locate possible victims. He also assisted other search and reconnaissance members. They used a thermal imaging camera to check for hot areas on the site before team members accessed it.

Rescue squad leader Phil Snyder was in charge of the five rescue specialists in his squad. Each of these squads had specific assignments received from the FDNY liaison. Rescue specialist Mark Tangney worked in one of the squads as they used low-angle rope systems to access lower void areas below the WTC. They also used specialized cutting tools to remove layers of metal debris to allow search of subterranean area. In addition, they performed search missions in the surrounding buildings. DART member Paul Brown worked with the three other logistics specialists on CA TF3.

Canine search specialist Engelbert and her Type 1 FEMA-certified disaster search dog, Lucy, were responsible for locating small human remains beneath the debris.

"We are both grateful and humbled by the contributions of the members of Ames' Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team to the search and recovery efforts in New York City," said Center Director Henry McDonald.

Lynne Engelbert and search dog Lucy search the rubble at ground zero at the collapsed World Trade Center.

"Their efforts and service to America make all Ames employees extremely proud of this dedicated, highly trained and selfless group of men and women."

BY ANN HUTCHISON

Check out the Astrogram's updated look highlighting Ames' research leadership role in astrobiology, aerospace systems, information systems and technology, biotechnology and nanotechnology.

Redesign courtesy of Ames' Documentation Technology Branch (Code JIT) and the Boomerang Design Group.

Foothill-De Anza interns make real impact at Ames

The civil servants and contractors who sponsor Foothill-De Anza interns have found their student helpers to be dedicated and their work to often exceed their expectations. For example, Charles Rutherford has been an intern since January 2001. He works as a science logistics assistant for Laura Pacini-Selig, the science logistics project lead in Code SLO. According to Karin Perkins, the science logistics lab lead, he has performed exceptional work during his time at Ames. This included researching and reporting the safety training requirements for laboratory personnel, preparing laboratory baseline surveys and reporting on the utility requirements for the laboratory equipment at Dryden Flight Research Center. "He has done so many good, incredible things for our group. Needless to say, he is very much appreciated by everyone," said Perkins.

photo by Patricia Malan

Claudine Herbelin, a Foothill-De Anza intern at Ames since July 2000, was just hired as an Ames contractor by Logicon.

Claudine Herbelin has been an intern since July 2000 and was just hired as an Ames contractor by Logicon. She was the assistant to Farid Haddad, the facility engineer for FutureFlight Central. Here is what her supervisor had to say about her: "I have always been appreciative of Claudine, because her presence at FFC [FutureFlight Central] allowed me to share my duties between FFC and the wind tunnels more easily. Today, however, I truly felt proud of her when she was able to replace corrupted data files with archived files retrieved from the backup system she had set up. Retrieval of the files allowed the FFC development team to continue work on a time critical project, after reaching a dead end. I am elated with her performance…"

photo by Patricia Malan

Foothill-DeAnza intern Charles Rutherford is a science logistics assistant in Code SLO.

photo by Nancy Lee

Jannette Paksee, a Foothill-De Anza student working at Ames, is shown with Herb Finger, Wind Tunnel Sytems Branch chief for Code FOI.

Jannette Paksee works as an administrative assistant for Tom Aiken in Code FOW. She has been an intern since April 2001. Herb Finger, Wind Tunnel Systems Branch chief for Code FOI, gave her a special assignment to create an employee database so that his team could easily send e-mail to groups of individuals. He was very impressed with her work. "Jannette required little tutoring even though she had never even used a database," Finger said. "She read the manuals and learned by doing. Her first product was nearly perfect right out of the box. Her second database queried three existing databases and created summary reports for budget tracking. She again took little tutoring and finished the database last week. I'm using it this week," he said.

BY NANCY BILDERBACK

Silver Snoopy award presented

photo by Dominic Hart

Stefan Rosner (right, holding his son Zachary), a systems engineer employed by Lockheed Martin Space Operations at NASA Ames, was presented with the Silver Snoopy award by astronaut pilot candidate Gregory C. Johnson (left) on Sept. 26. Rosner was recognized for his work defining the host system-to-subrack payload and science equipment interfaces of the Space Station Biological Research Project (SSBRP). The Silver Snoopy recognizes special people and efforts that enhance mission success and safety of NASA's space flight program.

VPP STAR Tip:

"Getting and maintaining Star is a lot of work, but the benefits in reduced injuries, costs savings, and increased quality, productivity, and morale… make it all worthwhile." ...Margaret Richardson, in Preparing for the Voluntary Protection Programs, Copyright @ 1999 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Reprinted by permission of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Have a speaking date? Notify the Speakers' Bureau

Whether you're speaking to a classroom of 30 or out at the Math, Science and Technology Fair speaking to 3,000, you are contributing to the collective understanding of, and support for, NASA-Ames.

While any number of people at Ames contribute significantly to the overall image of the center, they may not think it is important. It is! They are the people who talk to the community and educational groups.

The Ames Speakers' Bureau wishes to maintain speaker information to identify areas covered, levels of interest in local communities, the types of associations requesting speakers as well as the number of people that Ames' speakers reach. This information is useful in obtaining and maintaining public support of NASA programs. Speaking to the community is essential to increasing Ames' viability.

Upon receipt of requests from outside sources, the NASA Ames Speakers' Bureau schedules volunteer employees from Ames to give lectures and presentations at educational institutions, business organizations, service clubs and professional and technical societies.

The Speakers Bureau program is successful in reaching out to the Silicon Valley community and other regions with our scientists, engineers and administrators, both civil service and contractors. As our valley continues to develop in science, math and technology, requests are coming in weekly for NASA

employees to inform the community of NASA's contributions from our center.

If you would like to volunteer for an event or wish to notify the Speakers' Bureau of an upcoming speech, contact the author at ext. 4-4034 or Sheila Johnson, community relations coordinator, at ext. 4-5054.

BY ANIL JINDIA

Fall Fun Walk and Run set for Oct. 23

The two-mile Fall Fun Walk and Run has been scheduled for Oct. 23. It will start on DeFrance and Warner at 12 noon.

If you have not already registered for the Fun Run, you can register with your building coordinator until Oct. 18.

You can also register at the Fitness Center before Oct. 19 or on the day of the event before the race at 11: 30 a.m., at the starting line. Registration is $2. We will be giving out free, beautifully designed T-shirts after the run.

Ames occupational injury/illness for the month of September

	Civil Servants	*Contractors*
Not recordable first aid cases	*1*	*2*
Recordable no lost-time cases	*1*	*0*
Restricted workday cases	*1*	*0*
Lost workday cases	*0*	*1*

These data were correct at the time of publication. They may be subject to slight adjustment due to late reporting.

Ames aims for VPP Star certification

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, recently completed a preliminary assessment of the Ames safety and health programs for Star certification as an exemplary Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) site. During their 10-day visit, the team of OSHA representatives reviewed programs, inspected work areas and interviewed selected employees. Their overall impression suggests that the center is an excellent candidate for VPP Star certification. Gabe Gillotti, Director of OSHA Voluntary Programs and Outreach, stated that Ames' management commitment to safety was evident and appropriate programs exist to support all VPP elements.

The OSHA inspection team provided briefings that shared their many positive comments on the center's commitment to safety, while also identifying areas where Ames needs to improve. OSHA's top three issues can be translated; namely, employee participation, employee participation and employee participation.

"Since employees best understand the hazards they face in the performance of their job duties, they are also an invaluable resource to assist in the resolution of safety concerns," said Gabe Gillotti, OSHA Director, in the review of Ames, Sept. 2001.

OSHA suggested we could improve employee participation by increasing:

- employee participation in safety committees
- employee participation in safety inspections
- employee participation in safety training, e.g., development and presentation, and
- employee participation in safety documentation, e.g., job hazard analyses

The Safety Office also recommends:

- employee participation with the correction of identified hazards
- employee participation as a member of the ergonomics solutions team, and
- emphasize safe work practices when mentoring student interns

Are you participating? Visit the Code Q web site at: http://q.arc.nasa.gov and check out the Safety Committees web site.

How to invent -- "think out of the box," Haslim advises

There is a prolific inventor who recently retired from Ames. During his career here, and even much earlier as a college student, he conceived new kinds of things to help people. He continues to donate some of his findings to NASA. How does he invent?

"Most of us are prone to look at the world and people around us in terms of differences. Instead, observe the world around you, and connect one observation with another, looking for similarities," he said. "Use these linked observations to come up with simple solutions to real problems."

When he was a teenage gasoline station attendant in 1944, he invented the device that latches the gasoline pump trigger so it will continue to pump until an auto's tank is full. The original latch device allowed him to clean car windows while the gasoline pump continued to fill each car's tank. The invention soon spread to other gas stations, and now is in use worldwide. He received only a dollar for this contribution. It is the simple, but effective, kind of invention for which Leonard Haslim is noted.

"Think out of the box," he said. "Don't be restricted by pre-set, arbitrary rules."

In his early years, during an engineering design course at San Diego State University, his instructor said that the chopstick is an example of a design that has been around for many years and could not be improved.

"Well, I've always resisted being told something can't be done, so I stood up in the middle of class and told him I could improve upon the design. He then bet me I couldn't come up with a design by the next week's class."

Haslim carried a bowl of wonton soup and improved chopsticks to the next class. "The professor saw me hiding in the back of the classroom and called me to the front. I then began eating the wontons with my chopsticks. When only soup was left, I inserted the chopsticks into the soup juice. I had hollowed out the chopsticks, and I used them as straws."

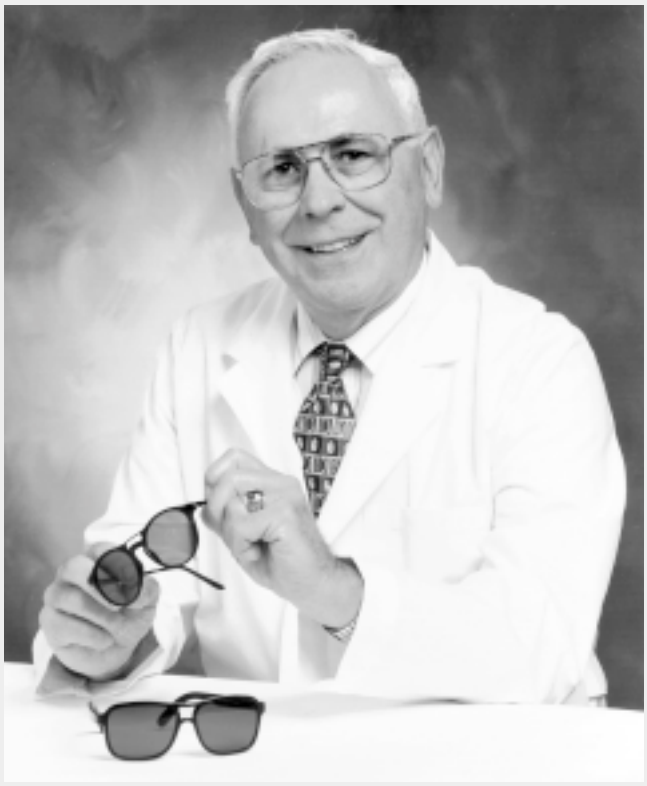
Following service as a Navy fighter pilot on the carrier Essex during the Korean Conflict, Haslim worked at Lockheed Missiles and Space Company's research laboratory (now called Lockheed-Martin) in Palo Alto. There he developed thermal control coatings for the Gemini and Apollo spacecraft. He joined NASA Ames in 1978, and in 1988 NASA named him inventor of the year for his electro-expulsive separation system (commonly known as the ice-zapper) that pops ice off airplane surfaces.

He also invented eyeglass lens filters that enable farmers to use infrared vision to more easily spot diseased crops that need special attention.

Another of his inventions is food-grade anti-icing fluid for aircraft, automobiles, fishing vessels and electric power sub-stations. He modified this anti-icing fluid to make an anti-graffiti fluid that can be used to coat signs and other likely 'tagger' targets. In addition, he created an essentially 'smash proof,' transparent plastic resin that is harder, and resists high temperatures and impacts better than current plastics. This new synthetic material costs less to make than similar plastics. A few potential uses for the plastic include aircraft windshields, computer circuit boards and school windows. Janitors could use solvents to clean graffiti from windows made from the new plastic without clouding or damaging its surface.

Haslim now keeps an office at Ames as a research associate for Code Q, still performing scientific research, and donating some of his findings to NASA.

A retired Navy captain, Haslim last week donated his 160th unit of blood, for a total of 20 gallons. "I'll buy a beverage for anybody at Ames who's given more blood than I have. Please, roll up your sleeves, and try to exceed my donation," he added. Donation, it seems, has been an important part of Haslim's life. Sometimes, he talks about his wish to somehow enable impoverished farmers around the world to use an inexpensive version of his agricultural infrared eyeglass filters. These plastic glasses, Haslim asserts, would help farmers to recognize and rescue stressed crops, thus reducing famine.



Ames' Dr. Leonard A. Haslim shown with the special brown and purple filter glasses he developed for agricultural use. The filters help farm workers and others spot plant stress and assess plant diseases.

BY JOHN BLUCK

NASA STARS gets underway at Ames

The Human Resources Division is pleased to announce the activation of NASA STARS, the new automated Staffing and Recruiting System, at Ames. NASA STARS is being implemented at all NASA centers under NASA Integrated Financial Management program (IFMP) sponsorship.

NASA STARS brings major improvements to the vacancy process, such as:

- a very easy-to-use resume builder that's accessible from the individual vacancy announcements or at: http://resume.nasa.gov.
- a 'whole person' resume eliminates the need for 'KSA' statements and serves for multiple jobs in different organizations.
- a 'quick apply' feature permitting resume submission by entering a vacancy number, for resumes already active in the system.
- more open-continuous announcements that provide pools of applicants ready for consideration and selection at any time.
- an AI-enabled, highly reputable Resumix system that is both powerful and smart in the way it quickly, objectively and consistently reviews resumes for relevant skills in applicant backgrounds.
- an electronic referral of best-qualified candidates to hiring managers at Ames.
- a highly secure system equivalent to that used in the banking industry.

For vacancy openings after Oct. 17, applicants may apply for positions using the on-line resume builder. All hard-copy resumes must be sent directly to the Resume Operations Center at Marshall Space Flight Center, not Ames Human Resources Office. Refer to specific vacancy announcements at: http://jobs.arc.nasa.gov on how to apply.

Visit http://nasastars.nasa.gov for the latest information on NASA STARS, how to apply for vacancies and accessing the NASA resume builder.

Center Briefs

Map ready to take photographic trip back in time

After its three-month journey in space, NASA's Microwave Anisotropy Probe (MAP) recently moved into its new home a million miles from Earth. It is now ready to chart the oldest light in the cosmos.

"We can now begin the process of observing the remnants of the early universe," said Dr. Charles L. Bennett, MAP principal investigator at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. "There is great anticipation within the astronomy community about this mission because of the potential it has to give us key clues to the content, shape, history and ultimate fate of our Universe."

MAP, launched June 30, 2001, was placed into a highly elliptical orbit around the Earth.

Icelandic weather system deciphers changes in arctic ice puzzle

Largely natural 'ups and downs' in a weather system centered near Iceland have contributed to regional variations and an overall decrease in Arctic sea ice cover over the last 20 years, according to new NASA research.

As this semi-permanent, low-pressure system intensifies and weakens, it affects the amount of air (generally warm) being brought into the Arctic to the east of the low, and the amount of air (generally cold) being swept out of the Arctic to the west. These changes, in turn, affect the amount of ice cover in the respective regions, adding to the effects of climate warming.

Claire L. Parkinson of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., highlights the changes in Arctic sea ice and their possible connection to the Icelandic low-pressure system in a paper appearing in the most recent issue of Polar Geography.

Aging NASA spacecraft captures best-ever view of comet's core

NASA's ailing Deep Space 1 spacecraft recently successfully navigated past a comet, giving researchers their best look ever inside the glowing core of icy dust and gas.

The space probe's close encounter with comet Borrelly provided the best-resolution pictures of the comet to date. The already successful Deep Space 1, without protection from the little-known comet environment, whizzed by just 2,200 kilometers (1,400 miles) from the rocky, icy nucleus of the 10-kilometer-long (more than 6-mile-long) comet.

Chandra probes nature of dark matter

Astronomers have shed new light on dark matter, the invisible and unknown material that comprises most of the universe.

Using NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory, scientists have precisely determined the distribution of dark matter in a distant galaxy cluster. These new measurements serve to narrow the field of candidates that explain this puzzling element.

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Flu vaccinations to begin in October

Flu season is almost upon us again, and it's time to get your influenza vaccination at the Ames Health Unit in Bldg. 215. We will be administering the vaccine to all resident staff (contractors and civil servants) and retirees (within the past 3 years). We regret we can not give the vaccine to spouses or families.

Group One: People aged 65 years or older. People of any age with chronic illnesses. Health care providers, food service workers and emergency personnel. Women who will be in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during the flu season. They must have prior written consent from their physician. Dates for this group are: Oct. 18, from 2 - 4 p.m. and Oct. 23, from 2 - 4 p.m. and any subsequent time slot.

Group Two: People who live in a household with a person who fits into any of the categories above. This includes those living with anyone 6 months to 18 years of age on long-term aspirin treatment (who could develop Reye's syndrome if they catch influenza). Also included are relatives of residents

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SAFETY SNAPSHOTS

This feature is one in a series intended to inform the Ames community about facets of Ames' safety and environmental programs.

Sharp-Tools (Sharps) Injury Protection

PROFILE

Do you use a blade, knife, punch, needle, staple gun or other sharp object on the job? You may be surprised to learn that there are some serious bloodborne pathogen issues that you need to be aware of. OSHA is concerned with the significant risk of workers becoming infected from injuries with contaminated 'sharps.' New laws now apply in manufacturing, retail and other worksites where sharp objects are handled, as well as in healthcare facilities. Your Ames' bloodborne pathogens program provides guidance.

CLOSEUP

Liesel Short, chief nurse and Ames Occupational Health Unit manager, is the center 'expert' in sharps injury control. Short has years of experience in dealing with personal injuries and is an expert in procedures that will minimize the risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Short advises employees to keep two simple principles in mind when working with sharp objects:

1. Always thoughtfully choose the safest tool for the job! Use a tool with designed engineering controls, e.g., retractable, sheathing, good grip, good lighting, etc.

2. Immediately disinfect or dispose of any contaminated sharp (one that has caused an injury). Bleach is an excellent disinfectant.

If you are injured, or helping an injured employee, even with something as small as a staple wound, stay calm and use remote handling (such as forceps) to handle the contaminated sharp. If you sustain a wound with a contaminated object, first make the injury bleed, then briskly wash it with soap and water. All work-related injuries must be reported to the Health Unit. The Health Unit will evaluate the exposure and determine appropriate care and prevention methods.

A single injury does not involve bloodborne pathogen risk; but a second injury with the same object can lead to infection and is defined as a bloodborne pathogen exposure Incident. Even a minor exposure of this type can cause infection, such as with Hepatitis B or C. Fortunately, simple precautions will keep you safe.

If you are in a job that has the potential for bloodborne pathogen exposure, the law requires an evaluation to assess your possible need for vaccination. Civil servants should call the Health Unit and contractors should contact your employer. Even if you do not wish to be vaccinated, you must still sign a declaration that states that you have been told of the risks and choose to decline the vaccination.

For more information, go to Ames Health and Safety Manual, APG 1700.1 Ch. 32, bloodborne pathogens which can be found on the QH web site at: http://q.arc.nasa.gov, or call the Ames Health and Safety Office at ext. 4-5602 or the Ames Health Unit at ext. 4-5287.

Ames' lecture series, webcasts reach broad audiences

Using both traditional methods and cutting-edge technologies, Ames is expanding efforts to take our message to non-traditional and underserved audiences through a variety of outreach activities and events. New approaches are designed to reach educators, minority audiences and women, as well as the general public, with the message that America's space program is for everyone. Scientists and technical experts, from NASA and academia, are taking advantage of this opportunity to share their enthusiasm about the nation's space exploits. Three recent programs highlight this effort.

The Silicon Valley Astronomy Lecture Series brings exceptional scientists to Foothill College in Los Altos Hills to discuss a variety of astronomy-related topics in a non-technical way. Questions from the audience are encouraged, and a variety of NASA materials is made available to attendees. The talks are co-sponsored by Ames, Foothill College's Division of Physical Science, Mathematics and Engineering, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and the SETI Institute.

What scientists mean by 'life,' the search for life and what life forms might exist in the universe was the topic of the first talk in the 2001-2002 series, which began Oct. 10. Dr. Chris Chyba of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Institute and Stanford University entertained a near-capacity crowd of about 750 people with his illustrated talk titled "Life in the Universe: Is It Just Around the Corner?" Chyba discussed what scientists today mean by life, what familiar and unfamiliar forms of life might be found in the universe, and just where and how we propose to look for life beyond the Earth.

The next talk in the 6-part series, scheduled for 7 p.m. on Nov. 14, will feature Dr. Lynn Cominsky of Sonoma State University discussing "Exploding Stars, Blazing Galaxies and Giant Black Holes: The Extreme Universe of Gamma-ray Astronomy." Other topics and speakers will be announced as their scheduled presentation dates approach.

In a different forum, Ames' Life Sciences Division is sponsoring a month-long series of talks, titled "The Right Stuff: Women at NASA Share Their Stories," at The Tech Museum of Innovation in San José. The presentations will feature accomplished women from Ames describing their contributions to America's space program, and how the space program has benefited women around the world. The talks are part of a continuing effort to inform the public, and women in particular, about Ames' and NASA's research and programs.

The series began Oct. 7 with a talk by Bonnie Dalton, acting chief of Ames' Life Sciences Division (Code SL), who discussed a woman's place in space. Scientist Dr. Cassie Conley followed on Oct. 14 with a discussion of her research on worms in space and what we can learn from them.

Upcoming speakers and topics include: Dr. Emily Morey-Holton, chief of Ames' gravitational Research Branch discussing "How Gravity Shapes Life" on Oct. 20; Dr. Sara Arnaud on "How Space Scientists are Researching Osteoporosis" on Oct. 21; Marilyn Vasques on "Shuttle Flights: The Inside Story on Managing Experiments" on Oct. 27; and Dr. April Ronca talking on the topic of "Birth and Development in Space" on Oct. 28.

One goal of NASA's research is to help humans expand their presence in space. The lack of gravity and the high radiation environment present unique challenges to humans and other living organisms onboard the International Space Station and in possible future space colonies. If it is the destiny of humans to extend our presence in space, these challenges must be studied and countermeasures developed when the effects of long-term space flight are harmful.

Women have played a key role in pursuing this research and developing the needed countermeasures. Dalton noted that women in Ames' Life Sciences Division have been involved in all aspects of research, both on Earth and in space. This research has improved our understanding of how long-term space flight affects living organisms. It also has shed new light on fundamental aspects of biology on Earth. NASA research and technology have helped the medical community address women's health issues, such as breast cancer and osteoporosis.

The Tech Museum talks have generated considerable interest from local print and electronic news media, including KGO radio, KNTV television, Tech TV and Machine Design magazine. In addition, NASA Headquarters plans to post the Ames news release, speaker photographs, biographies and presentations on its 'Women's Initiative' web site at: http://www.nasa.gov/women/welcome.html

The NASA Quest program has a series of activities planned in October and November, including two that will feature chats in both English and Spanish

On Oct. 15 from 9-10:00 a.m., Ames' Dr. Sylvia M. Johnson will chat about how new thermal protection materials are changing aerospace designs. Johnson is the chief of the Thermal Protection Materials and Systems Branch (Code ASM).

On Oct. 16 from 10:00-11:00 a.m, Nick Engler will compare and contrast the time, cost and safety of flight testing used by the Wright Brothers versus current methods.

From noon to 1 p.m. on Oct. 18, "Orville and Wilbur Wright" will conduct a simulated virtual conversation about the process they used to design airplanes.

On Oct. 25 from 11 a.m.-noon, NASA Quest will host a webcast from Ames' Vertical Motion Simulator, where astronaut pilots test the maneuverability of second-generation reusable launch vehicles. Astronaut Kenneth Ham will take part in the webcast.

In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Week, there will be two opportunities to chat in both Spanish and English with leading Ames women researchers. Bilingual webchats will take place on Oct. 15, at 11 a.m. with Ames' Imelda Terrazas-Salinas (Code ASF), and on Nov.14, at 10 a.m. with Fanny Zuniga (Code APS).

For more information and a complete schedule of upcoming events, visit: http://quest.nasa.gov/calendar/

BY ANN HUTCHISON

Flu vaccinations to begin in October

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of nursing homes and other facilities where patients with chronic medical conditions live. Those over 50 and those who will travel to the Southern Hemisphere between April and September, or those traveling to the tropics at any time (work-related). Date for this group is: Oct. 24, from 2 - 4 p.m., and any subsequent time slot.

Group Three: All those who do not fit in the above groups. All groups prior to this one may come to these time slots: Oct. 31, from 2 - 4 p.m. and Nov. 1, from 2 - 4 p.m.

Those with an allergy to eggs or those who are acutely ill with fever at the time of the vaccination should not take the vaccine. If you cannot make the time assigned for your group, you may come to any subsequent session.

Please wear short or loose-fitting sleeves to eliminate the need for privacy concerns.

The information sheets/consent forms will be available at the Health Unit or by linking to http://ohp.nasa.gov/employee/coldflu.html and printing out the forms. Please arrive a few minutes early to read and sign the forms if not completed prior to arrival.

Appointments are not required, however, vaccines will be administered only during the specific clinic hours given above.

For more information, contact the Health Unit at ext. 4-5287.

Halloween costume and pumpkin carving contest set

It's that time of year again as the Ames Exchange screams back for its annual Halloween party. This year's event will take place at the Ames Café Mega Bites from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Halloween day, Oct. 31, 2001.

Come and be an active participant in the contests, or just sit back and enjoy a costume parade through the dining room and observe teams of creative carvers attempting to fashion the best pumpkin.

It is time to start planning now. Pumpkin carving teams can sign up by contacting the author at ext. 4-0818 or email her at: jbulaich@mail.arc.nasa.gov.

The Ames Exchange will provide each team with a pumpkin and carving tools. Teams may bring in props for their entry, but all carving and decorating must take place live and in person between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded for Halloween costumes judged according to the categories of most creative, scariest and funniest, for both male and female participants. The Exchange will also recognize the carved pumpkin judged to be 'best in show.' All prizes will be awarded at 1:30 p.m.

Last year's Ames Halloween costume contest winners.

The Halloween party and contest are open to all on-site Ames and associated personnel, but not to children.

BY JODI BULAICH

photos by Tom Trower

NAS speeds new rocket turbine design

Engineers at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) were recently able to shave three-and-a-half months off the task of simulating a supersonic turbine, thanks to the work of Ames' NASA Advanced Supercomputing (NAS) Division user services staff. The simulations were performed on supercomputers located at the NAS facility, to analyze the unsteady flow in an advanced turbine design. The results will help in the design of more efficient and durable rocket engines.

Responding quickly to a request from MSFC's Applied Fluid Dynamics Analysis Group, Chuck Niggley, NAS scientific consulting group lead, and colleague Herbert Yeung, provided access to special computational resources when regular resources proved insufficient for the MSFC simulation task. The NAS team set up a special account for users, and worked around the clock to keep MSFC apprised of anticipated changes in the computing environment.

In a letter of thanks to NASA officials, Daniel J. Dorney, of MSFC's Applied Fluid Dynamics Analysis Group, wrote: "Both Chuck and Herbert should be complimented on their willingness to help users solve computer-related issues, their understanding of users deadlines, and their positive attitude."

MSFC has designed and experimentally tested a supersonic turbine, called the 'Simplex' turbine. This 'partial-admission' turbine (that is, the flow enters the turbine over only a portion of the turbine inlet) was designed as a ground demonstrator, and was experimentally tested with both metal and composite airfoils (blades) to study the feasibility and durability of advanced composite materials. "The experiments showed that the composite airfoils performed very well," said Dorney.

BY JILL DUNBAR

Committee Room capabilities enhanced

The center's flagship senior executive meeting and briefing room, the Jack W. Boyd Committee Room in Bldg. N-200, was recently modernized to provide a state-of-the art, architectural and technological environment in keeping with Ames roles and missions.

The facility is now representative of the center's advanced communications capabilities and high technology leadership. It conveys the professional perception Ames desires to staff, colleagues, peers, partners and industry representatives who visit in the conduct of daily business.

The facility has been engineered and equipped to take full advantage of the latest meeting, collaboration and communications tools. They have been packaged with particular emphasis on the aesthetics of technology integration and ease of user access and interface. The goal is to minimize the impact of technology upon the multi-purpose, multi-function meeting space and users.

The investment in integration of current technologies and ease of user access benefits center operations, management and finances significantly by offering quality options to costly and time-consuming off-site travel, training and meetings.

While advanced technology was a large part of the support requirement for the room, it was deemed critical in the basic integration design that the technology not overpower the room's aesthetics or the ability of the users to directly and readily access and utilize the room's technology without operator intervention or assistance (including elimination of the need for an operator console in the room.)

Toward those ends, the facility's technology integration was developed around a core model that allows for a graphical user interface (GUI) touch panel user interface capable of controlling and accessing the configuration, switching, and routing of all room resources, displays, interfaces, systems and functions, as appropriate.

The control approach dramatically simplifies the user interface through the use of pre-configured, 'common' configurations accessed through the control panel for the most common activities utilized in the room such as presentations, voice teleconferences and video teleconferences. It also has the ability to easily change or modify signal sources, destinations, modes, activities and settings as required by the room users.

Notable technical features and capabilities of the room include:

• 22 hardwired access points capable of supporting AC power, phone modem, high-speed Ethernet data and up to UXGA computer display resolutions including stereo audio; 16 of these points are integrated directly into the table surface;

• data networking capabilities including an 802.11b compliant wireless data hub and implementation of dynamic host address assignments (DHCP) to facilitate ease of network configuration supplementing the wired connectivity for those bringing their laptop computers into the facility;

• an integrated video/audio teleconference CoDec capable of supporting up to 384K ISDN, as well as InterNet (IP) based video and audio conferencing;

•dual high-resolution electronic visualizers, the rough equivalent of projection-based viewgraph and opaque projectors, for introduction and display of printed material, 3D items, viewgraphs, etc., into the various room systems. The units feature several unique capabilities that can enhance non-electronic presentations;

• in-room presentation servers supporting remote collaboration and accommodating electronic sharing of materials and presentations, including the ability to e-mail or electronically transfer and access presentation materials and files;

photos by Dominic Hart

Recent ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the newly remodeled and technologically updated N-200 Committee Room. From left to right: Executive Assistant Antoinette Price; Center Director Henry McDonald; Executive Assistant Jack Boyd; Deputy Center Director William Berry; and Associate Director for Systems Management and Planning Nancy Bingham.

• common audio/video support resources such as video cassette recorder (VCR), audio cassette deck and television tuner, in addition to more current audio/video presentation technologies such as digital video disk (DVD);

• primary and alternate displays consisting of dual 98" diagonal 4x5 format forward projection primary data/video displays and dual 16x9 format 50" diagonal plasma panel alternate displays with interactive touch screen overlays that can be used for data/video display, electronic white boarding, interactive presentation, and application sharing in addition to remote collaboration; all displays capable of displaying high definition television (HDTV) content;

• a single point, integrated and self prompting graphical user interface (GUI) user interface point for comprehensive control and status information regarding all aspects of the facility's resources and operations including window shades and lighting;

• surround sound room audio system capable of supporting all specialized and spatialized audio content accurately and providing sound reinforcement as required for current multi-media presentations; and

• the ability to broadcast directly from the facility into the center's video control center (VCC) where signals can be processed for presentation over the center's CATV system and/or encoded for streaming over the world wide web.

The upgrade to the Committee Room was a significant undertaking indicative of

continued on back page

Event Calendar

Model HO/HOn3 Railroad Train Club at Moffett Field in Bldg. 126, across from the south end of Hangar One. Work nights are usually Friday nights, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Play time is Sundays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Call John Donovan (408) 735-4954 (W) or (408) 281-2899 (H).

Jetstream Toastmasters, Mondays, 12 noon to 1 p.m., N-269/Rm. 179. Guests welcome. POC: Samson Cheung at ext. 4-2875 or Lich Tran at ext. 4-5997.

Ames Bowling League, starts Sept 4. Palo Alto Bowl on Tues nights. Seeking full-time bowlers to fill out teams and substitutes. Pre-league meeting at Palo Alto Bowl on Tues, August 28 at 6 p.m. Questions about the league or wish to sign up, contact Mike Liu at ext. 4-1132.

Ames Diabetics (AAD), 1st & 3rd Weds, 12 to 1 p.m., at Ames Mega Bites, Sun rm. Support group discusses news affecting diabetics. POC: Bob Mohlenhoff, ext. 4-2523/email at: bmohlenhoff@mail.arc.nasa.gov.

Ames Child Care Center Board of Directors Mtg, Every other Thursday (check website for meeting dates: http://accc.arc.nasa.gov), 12 noon to 2 p.m., N-269, Rm. 201. POC: Joan Walton, ext 4-2005.

Ames Sailing Club Mtg, second Thursday each month, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m, bldg. N262/Rm 100. Brown bag lunch, usually includes a special speaker. Come learn about sailing. Everyone welcome. POC: Stan Phillips, ext. 4-3530 or Joyce Barrett, ext 4-3816.

Ames Federal Employees Union (AFEU) meeting, Oct 17, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., Bldg. 19, Rm 1042. Info at: http://www.afeu.org. POC: Marianne Mosher at ext. 4-4055.

Ames Amateur Radio Club, Oct 18, 12 noon, N-T28 (across from N-255). POC: Michael Wright, KG6BFK, at ext. 4-6262. URL: http://hamradio.arc.nasa.gov

Native American Advisory Committee mtg, Oct 23, 12 noon to 1 p.m., Building 19, Rm 1096. POC: Mike Liu at ext. 4-1132.

Environmental, Health and Safety Monthly Information Forum, Nov 1, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., Bldg. 19/Rm 1040. URL: http://q.arc.nasa.gov/qe/events/EHSseries/ POC: Julie Quanz at ext. 4-6810.

Nat'l Association of Retired Federal Employees, (NARFE), Nov 2, S. J. Chapter # 50 mtg, 9:30 a.m., Hometown Buffett, Westgate Mall, 4735 Hamilton Avenue, San José. Lunch at 11 a.m. $6.27 pp. Program at 10 a.m. Peninsula Stroke Association. POC: Earl Keener (408) 241-4459 or NARFE 1-800--627-3394.

Ames Contractor Council Mtg, Nov 7, 11 a.m., N-200, Comm. Rm. POC: Paul Chaplin at ext. 4-3262.

Ames Classifieds

Ads for the next issue should be sent to *astrogram@mail.arc.nasa.gov* by the first Friday following publication of the present issue and must be resubmitted for each issue. Ads must involve personal needs or items; (no commercial/third-party ads) and will run on a space-available basis only. First-time ads are given priority. Ads must include home phone numbers; Ames extensions and email addresses will be accepted for carpool and lost and found ads only. Due to the volume of material received, we are unable to verify the accuracy of the statements made in the ads.

Housing

3 bd/1.5 ba, 2-story twnhs on Luz Avenue, San José. Freshly painted inside, dishwasher, gas heat, w/w carpet, outside child play area/large patio. 1 car port. Easy access to H101/680/280. $259K. Azucena (408) 559-2881.

Two sunny, pleasant furnished bdms for rent in home in the Los Gatos/Campbell area of San Jose for professional non-smoker. Off-street pking, safe family nghbd, most utilities incl. Long term preferred, shorter term possible for summer/fall. Shared bath/kitchen. Lease/deposits required. Call (408) 266-7272 and lv. message.

Townhouse for sale: 2 bd/1.5 ba, 4 miles and 10 mins from Ames; best area of Sunnyvale, across from elementary school, lg patio, priv hot tub & orange tree, complex pool, fireplace, large greenbelt in front, close to Hwys 85 & 280 & El Camino Real, washer, dryer, refrigtr can remain (plus dishwasher); going on market soon; new carpets & paint; $340K. Call (408) 245-8256.

Furnished 11x14ft room in 4 bd/2ba house at Sunnyvale & Olive. Less than 3 miles to Moffet. Near Caltrain, mrkt, freeway, gyms. Female prof./student wanted. $750 + 1/3 gas/elec negotiable. Avail now. sunnypoohbear2001@yahoo.com. Call (408) 530-8547.

MV shared housing: Seeking mature prof female to Share town home with 2 prof females. Spacious furnished bdrm/shared bath, avail Oct. 1. N/S, N/P, D/W, W/D, CATV, sep phone line, small yard. Near downtown, Cal Train, light rail. $750/mo plus 1/3 utils plus 350 deposit. Chris (650) 967-8773.

For rent: Sunnyvale house. 2bd/1ba plus laundry, yard, gardener. Recently remodeled. Convenient to Ames and downtown. $1,800. Call (408) 736-8260.

House for rent, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, with fireplace, 2 car garage, large yard, $2,000 per month. Close to Ames. Available: 10/2. Call (650) 851-8947.

For sale: 5 bedroom, 3 bath, 2,400+ sq. ft. Cupertino home on 9,700+ sq. ft. landscaped lot for sale, $988,000. Call (408) 985-9222 or (925) 516-7001.

For rent: one large master bedroom including private bathroom in a 2 bd/2 ba condo (Ventana Complex). About one mile away from De Anza College. For more info: motunet@yahoo.com. Call (408) 839-7715.

For rent: quiet, lovely 2bd/2ba upstairs in downtown Los Altos triplex (Tyndall St.). Large open-beamed living room. New carpets, paint, appliances, upgraded baths. Call (650) 969-5867/207-6625.

Ames Retirements

Name	Code	Date
Earl B. LeMar	JAI	06-30-01
David G. Walton	QS	10-03-01

Miscellaneous

Pair of San José Sharks hockey tickets for games on Dec 28 (vs NY Rangers) and 30 (vs Phoenix) available. Tickets are $68 per pair. Call (408) 735-0524.

Wood stove, $85. Pump organ, $375. Don (408) 984-5675.

Bunk bed, futon bottom, twin top, white metal frame, like new; $275. Call (408) 723-3804. Lv msg.

Bedroom furniture set , contemporary look, white with mirrors. Set includes: adjustable frame and headboard, 2 nightstands with drawers, large dresser with mirror, large armoire, brand new queen mattress and box spring. Like new, in great condition. $500. Tony at (408) 342-9055 or (408) 686-0728.

Full size mattress ($50); floor lamps ($20 each); dresser ($40); kitchen table with 2 chairs ($70); VCR ($50) or B/O. All items here on Moffett. Call (650) 575-3713.

Lg black fridge (top of the line, used 1 yr) $650; pet door for sliding glass door $100; R/C beginner aircraft $50; HEPA air filter $50; treadmill $400; qn waterbed, free. Call (650) 964-0496.

Aquarium, 55-gallon, fully equipped and currently operational. Includes some gorgeous fish, $100. Call (408) 296-8182.

Transportation

'70 VW convertible classic, original owner, no smog needed; transmission ok; needs work on top & possibly engine. $1,600. Esther or Art (650) 961-2732.

'71 Volvo 142, white 2 door, original owner, looks/runs good, $1,000. Everett (650) 941-5267.

'92 Nissan Maxima GXE 3.0 V-6 Auto, excellent condition. Cruise, A/C, P/W, P/D, Keyless Entry, Tape, 90K miles, $5620. 650-493-3738 Leave Message for Chuck.

'92 Honda Accord EX, 2 dr, 5 spd, A/C, power windows, sunroof, one owner, 31,500 mls, $5,500 or B/O. Call (650) 948-4678.

'92 Buick Skylark, GS Coupe, white w/grey trim, 91,000 mls, grand touring suspension, new antilock brakes, automatic trans, power windows, new battery. Needs tires. $2,000 or B/O. Libby Anderson (650) 948-4678.

'94' Toyota 4Runner 4WD, Silver, 5 spd. Fully Loaded Great Condition $12k. Call 408-829-7743.

'00 VW Jetta GLS, Excellent condition, 15K mls 4 cyl, 5 speed, cruse, AC, sunroof, CD, power windows & locks. Silver with gray int. $16,000. Jim (650) 364-7074 or email: jkaysen@yahoo.co

Ames public radio

1700 KHz AM radio -- information announcements and emergency instructions, when appropriate, for Ames employees.

Exchange Information

Information about products, services and opportunities provided to the employee and contractor community by the Ames Exchange Council. Visit the web site at: http://exchange.arc.nasa.gov

Beyond Galileo N-235 (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.) ext. 4-6873

Ask about NASA customized gifts for special occasions. Check centerwide emails for special sales and events. Make your reservations for Chase Park.

Mega Bites N-235 (6 a.m. to 2 p.m.) ext. 4-5969

See daily menu at: http://exchange.arc.nasa.gov

Visitor Center Gift Shop N-223 (10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) ext. 4-5412

NASA logo merchandise, souvenirs, toys, gifts and educational items.

Tickets, etc... (N-235, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.) ext. 4-6873

Check web site for discounts to local attractions, http://exchange.arc.nasa.gov and click on tickets.
Oct 17, 8 p.m., Grease, American Musical Theatre, San José, San José Center for the Performing Arts.
Oct 18, 1:05 p.m., Oakland Raiders vs. San Diego Chargers, Network Associates Coliseum, tickets, $41.
Oct 31, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Pumpkin Carving & Costume Contest at Mega Bites. For more information, call Jodi Bulaich at ext. 4-0818.

NASA Lodge (N-19) 603-7100

Open 7 days a week, 7:00 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Rates from $40 - $50.

NASA Swim Center (N108) 603-8025

New winter hours are in effect. For info call Tana Wilson at ext. 3-8025.

Vacation Opportunities

Lake Tahoe Squaw Valley twnhse, 3bd/2ba, balcony view, horseback riding, hiking, biking, golf, river rafting, tennis, ice skating and more. Summer rates. Call 650) 968-4155, DBMcKellar@aol.com

South Lake Tahoe cottage w/wood fireplace and hot tub. Rates from $50 to $130 per night. Call (650) 967-7659 or (650) 704-7732.

Vacation rental, Bass Lake CA 14 mls south of Yosemite. 3 bd/1.5 ba, TV, VCR, MW, fireplace, charcoal BBQ, priv. boat dock, great lake view. Sleeps 8. $1,050/wk. Call (559) 642-3600 or (650) 390-9668.

Big Sur vacation rental, secluded 4bd/2ba house in lovely canyon setting. Fully eqpd. kitchen. Access to priv. beach. Tub in patio gdn. Halfway between Carmel & Big Sur. $175/night for 2, $225 for 4 & $250 for more, plus $150 cleaning dep. Call (650) 328-4427.

Airborne science reunion set for Nov. 9

The 'Celebration of NASA's Airborne Science Program – Past and Present' has been rescheduled to Nov. 9. The event will be held in the NASA Ames Training Center, Building 3 (the old Officer's Club) from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

There will be three noteworthy speakers, a buffet-style dinner and lots of old friends.

For reservations, contact Patti Bergin at ext. 4-6314 or email her at: pbergin@mail.arc.nasa.gov. The cost is $35 per person. Make checks payable to "Airborne Science Reunion" and send them to Pattie Bergin at NASA Ames Research Center, M/S 158-1, Moffett Field, CA 94035.

The deadline for registration is Nov. 1. For up-to-date information, visit the web page at: www.http://geo.arc.nasa.gov/air_sci_dinner. Invite a friend and come join the fun!

Awards banquet set

The 2001 awards banquet is set for Tuesday, Oct. 23 at 6 p.m. Join industry and community leaders in honoring computing pioneers Frederick P. Brooks, Jean E. Sammet and Maurice V. Wilkes at The Computer Museum History Center Fellow Awards Banquet at the Fairmont Hotel in San José.

The master of ceremonies will be Internet pioneer and luminary Vinton Cerf. The cost is $175 per person. RSVP by Oct. 15 to Jennifer Cheng at ext. 4-2714 or email her at: events@computerhistory.org. Check out the web site at: URL: www.computerhistory.org

Committee Room capabilities enhanced

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the necessary commitment to the center, the agency and the nation in making the strategic technological investments required to conduct the representation, business and affairs of the center more productively and cost efficiently.

The core engineering and design team behind the Committee Room project comprised: Mark R. Allard (Code JTN); Patrick D. Jacquemet (Code JFP); Glenn Maynard (Code JT); Antoinette M. Price (Code D); and Natesan Seshagiri (Code FEF).

BY MARK ALLARD

Astrogram deadlines

All Ames employees are invited to submit articles relating to Ames projects and activities for publication in the *Astrogram*. When submitting stories or ads for publication, submit your material, along with any questions, in MS word by e-mail to: astrogram@mail.arc.nasa.gov on or before the deadline.

Deadline	*Publication*
Fri, Oct 19	*Mon, Oct 29*
Fri, Nov 2	*Mon, Nov 12*
Fri, Nov 16	*Mon, Nov 26*

The Ames Astrogram

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Managing Editor.....David Morse
Editor.....Astrid Terlep

We can be reached via email at: astrogram@mail.arc.nasa.gov or by phone at (650) 604-3347